2016 State Behavioral Health Priorities



Updated October 27, 2015

Integrate behavioral health Involuntary Treatment Act laws and launch secure detoxification facilities.

Support HB 1713 or its equivalent, to create integrated involuntary commitment processes encompassing both mental health and substance abuse, including secure detoxification facilities. This would bring crisis systems into alignment with overall behavioral health integration. This integrated crisis response model has been shown to improve outcomes and reduce costs. To support effective implementation, this policy should be strengthened by including capital and startup funds for one 16-bed secure detoxification facility in King County.

Create a Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity for people with criminal histories.

Support HB 1553 or its equivalent, to promote recovery and reintegration into society for people with criminal records by establishing a Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity (CROP) to improve access to employment, housing, and stability. When issued by courts, these certificates would accompany people's criminal history reports, showing that they have met obligations and achieved significant rehabilitation.

Refine the assisted outpatient treatment law to support effective implementation of less restrictive alternative treatment.

To avoid the unintended consequence of creating new barriers to hospital discharge, make technical refinements to new provisions of the Involuntary Treatment Act created as part of 2015's assisted outpatient mental health treatment law, E2SHB 1450. These changes would ensure that less restrictive petitions and orders contain necessary information about people's responsibilities while returning the role of treatment planning to the community provider responsible for implementation.

Increase the purchase age for tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21, and regulate vapor products.

Support HB 1458 or its equivalent, to reduce youth access to tobacco and vapor products, improve health, and make the purchase age for these addictive items commensurate with alcohol and recreational marijuana. Also support HB 1645 or its equivalent, to regulate vapor products.

Expand access to opiate overdose prevention and medication-assisted treatment.

Expand access to the life-saving opiate overdose prevention drug naloxone and provide capital funds to launch new community clinics to meet the need for medication-assisted treatment (MAT).